

Please amend page 11, line 1 as follows:

Claims What is claimed is:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the production of DTPA-bis(anhydride) *characterized in* that DTPA is reacted with acetic anhydride in pyridine under elevated temperature and that the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 6 times the molar amount of DTPA.
2. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.
3. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is equal to or less than 1 time the molar amount of DTPA.
4. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 1 wherein the molar amount of pyridine is at least 0.5 times the molar amount of DTPA.
5. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the molar amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA.
6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is in excess of the molar amount of DTPA.
7. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 7 times the molar amount of DTPA.
8. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 5 times the molar amount of DTPA.

9. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.
10. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is more than 2 times the molar amount of DTPA.
11. (Currently amended) The process ~~Process~~ of claim 6 wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA.
12. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of claims 1 to 3, 5 and 9 to 11~~ wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA and the amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA.
13. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of the preceding claims~~ wherein the reaction temperature is above 65°C.
14. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of the preceding claims~~ wherein the reaction temperature is above 70°C.
15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of the preceding claims~~ wherein the reaction temperature is at 80°C or above.
16. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 ~~Process of claims 1 to 3, 5 and 9 to 11 and 16~~ wherein the molar amount of acetic anhydride is about 3 times the molar amount of DTPA, the amount of pyridine is approximately the same as the molar amount of DTPA and wherein the reaction temperature is approximately 80°C.
17. (Currently amended) DTPA-bis(anhydride) *characterized in* being produced by the process of claim 1 ~~the preceding claims~~.